

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-03 IO-11 NEA-10 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /131 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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EE.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, ETRD, AS

SUBJ: CIEC: GOA POSITION FOR HLGC MEETING AND CORM

REF: CANBERRA 651

1. MAX HUGHES, DIRECTOR, TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES SECTION, DFA HAS GIVEN US PAPER WHICH CONTAINS SUBSTANCE GOA POSITION FOR FEBRUARY 9-10 MEETING HLGC AND FEBRUARY 11 MEETING CORM. GOA POSITION AS CONTAINED IN PAPER FOLLOWS:

2. GOA AGREES THAT FIRST TASK OF CORM IS TO DECIDE COVERAGE OF ITS ACTIVITIES AND AGREE ON A PROGRAM OF WORK. IN THIS REGARD HLGC WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER HOW TO REACT TO G 19 LIST OF TOPICS AND HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE A MORE NEUTRAL AGENDA. GOA DOUBTS IF THIS COULD BE DONE BY ATTEMPTING TO AMEND THE G 19 LIST AS SUCH. FOR ONE THING, PEREZ-GUERRERO HAS INDICATED THAT THE G 19 LIST IS, IN A NUMBER OF RESPECTS, MORE A STATEMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY POSITION THAN A LIST OF
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TOPICS. EQUALLY GOA HAS DOUBTS ABOUT THE APPROPRIATENESS FOR

THIS PURPOSE OF THE UNCTAD GROUP B PAPER ON COMMODITIES EXCEPT IN A REFERENCE SENSE. IT WOULD SEEM ADVISABLE, DESPITE THE SIMILARITY OF SUBJECT, TO TRY TO AVOID HAVING THE UNCTAD WORK TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THAT OF COMR. GOA WOULD BE OPPOSED TO ANY IDEA THAT CORM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A KIND OF PREPARATORY FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF UNCTAD IV COMMODITY QUESTIONS AS SUCH ALTHOUGH GOA RECOGNIZES THAT CORM WORK MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE TO SOME CONTRIBUTION IN AN UNCTAD IV CONTEXT.

3. GOA WOULD AGREE WITH UNITED STATES THINKING THAT CORM SHOULD BEGIN ITS SUBSTANTIVE WORK BY CONCENTRATING ON DISCUSSION OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND ELEMENTS AND IT SEEMS TO GOA THAT SUCH A DISCUSSION SHOULD PROCEED TO LOOK AT THE PRINCIPLES AND ELEMENTS FROM THE VIEWPOINTS OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. HOWEVER GOA WOULD BE WORRIED IF THE EXAMPLES USED BY THE UNITED STATES (COMPENSATORY FINANCE AND INVESTMENT) INDICATE THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO TAKE A VERY NARROW APPROACH TO THE DISCUSSION OF ELEMENTS.

4. LIKE CANADA, GOA THINKS THAT THE UNITED STATES KLEBER II LIST WOULD BE A USEFUL STARTING POINT. SUBJECT TO A FEW CHANGES IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO GOA. GOA AGREES THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO FOOD IN POINT ONE I.E. ACCESS TO SUPPLY AND MARKETS FOR RAW MATERIALS. WHILST THE PHRASE ACCESS TO SUPPLY COULD BE AMBIGUOUS AND CONSTRUED TOO BROADLY AS EXTENDING FOR EXAMPLE TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT GOA HAS ASSUMED THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENTION WAS THAT IT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO TRADE QUESTIONS. LIKE CANADA, GOA THINKS THAT DISCUSSION OF ACCESS TO MARKETS SHOULD NOT BE CONFINED TO PRIMARY FORMS OF RAW MATERIALS AND FOOD AND COULD GO BEYOND TERM "SEMI PROCESSED" IF AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULATION CAN BE FOUND. GOA ALSO THINKS THAT "RELIABLE" IS A PREFERABLE WORD TO "ASSURED" IN THIS CONTEXT.

5. ON THE OTHER TOPICS OF THE U.S. LIST GOA WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTIES ALTHOUGH THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO PRICES. IN THEIR VIEW PRICE INSTABILITY IS ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS AFFECTING PRODUCTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN TRADE IN RAW MATERIALS AND COMMODITIES AND THEY BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CORM SHOULD GIVE ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM AND ITS WORK. ACCORDINGLY IT SUGGESTED THAT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC COULD BE ADDED TO THE U.S. LIST:

"PROBLEMS OF PRICE INSTABILITY FOR RAW MATERIALS AND COMMODITIES, AND THE NEED FOR PRICES THAT ARE STABLE AND REMUNERATIVE TO PRODUCERS AND FAIR TO CONSUMERS."

6. ONLY OTHER COMMENT ON THE U.S. LIST IS IN RELATION TO TOPIC
5: "ENHANCEMENT OF THE FUNCTIONING AND STABILITY OF MARKETS
FOR COMMODITIES, INCLUDING FOOD, ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS."
GOA BELIEVES THAT THIS FORMULATION COULD BE IMPROVED BY
SUBSTITUTING "PERFORMANCE" IN PLACE OF "STABILITY". WHILST
STABILITY OF MARKETS IS IMPORTANT IT IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF
AND MAY BE UNSATISFACTORY IN MEETING THE INTERESTS OF COMMODITY
TRADERS.

7. COMMENT: HUGHES TOLD US THAT SAME MATERIAL HAD BEEN SENT
THEIR EMBASSY IN OTTAWA, AS CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN
PRESSING FOR GOA VIEWS.

8. AS TENTATIVELY REPORTED EARLIER, A.J. MCGOLDRICK WILL
LEAD AUSTRALIAN CORM DELEGATION AND P.A. BARRATT, DEPARTMENT
OF NATIONAL RESOURCES, WILL AUDIT ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING.
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